

If you want to be important – wonderful. If you want to be recognized – wonderful. If you want to be great – wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's your new definition of greatness. And this morning, the thing that I like about it...by giving that definition of greatness it means that **everybody can be great,**

**because everyone can serve.**

You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. And you can be that servant.

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
*Sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church, February 4, 1968*

**Read how people of all ages  
in Bloomington, Indiana  
have made the  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday  
“A Day On! Not a Day Off.”**

THE DR. MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR.  
HOLIDAY 2003

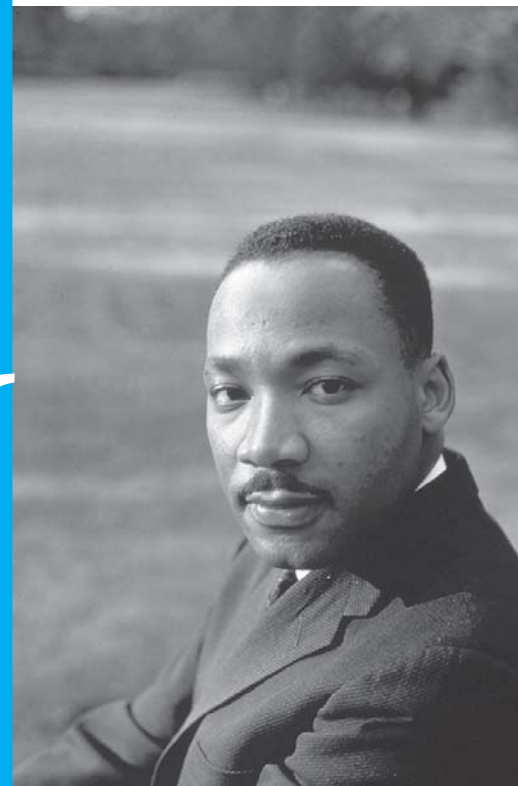
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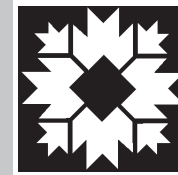
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and Community Service.



NOT  
A  
DAY  
OFF



**A Day  
On!  
Not a  
Day Off  
2003**

*The Dr. Martin  
Luther King, Jr.  
Holiday  
in Bloomington,  
Indiana*



**City of Bloomington, IN**

A Day On! Not a Day Off, 2003:  
The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
in Bloomington, Indiana

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City of Bloomington, Indiana

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## Preface

The City of Bloomington's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission was created to celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy and to promote the acceptance of diversity. Each year the Commission encourages volunteer service by observing the federal King holiday as "A Day On! Not A Day Off." The Commission does this by working with organizations and encouraging them to develop meaningful projects for volunteers. The Commission's efforts are supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which provides grant funds. During 2003 the grant funds were used in two ways: they were awarded to community organizations to help them pay for materials and supplies used by volunteers during their service projects, and they were used to publish this book.

This book – "A Day On! Not A Day Off 2003" – represents some of the activities that occurred on and around the King holiday, January 20, 2003, in and around Bloomington, Indiana. Over 45 organizations coordinated activities for volunteers, and hundreds of people participated. Organizations as diverse as public and private schools, churches and synagogues, and providers of food, clothing, and shelter sponsored service projects. Volunteers did everything from collecting food and making cinnamon rolls to painting walls and making furniture. A complete list of the service projects and organizations that received funding can be found on pages x-xi.

Prior to the King holiday, students throughout the school district participated in discussions about Dr. King's life and his ethic of service to others. Many of these students volunteered their service on the holiday, and many wrote about their activities and feelings. The book contains photos, essays, reflections, thoughts, and poetry created by people of various ages and perspectives – students, community members, educators, social service agency directors and staff, and others. It also contains a selection of the many inspiring words of Dr. King.

We hope that this book increases our community's awareness about the importance of participating in volunteer service activities.

We hope this book inspires you!

## ***Introductory Words***

***by Beverly Calender-Anderson, Chair,  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration  
Commission***

Nearly six years ago when my family relocated to Bloomington, we were immediately struck by the activism in the community. Residents from all walks of life were voicing their opinions, support and opposition to any number of ideals and ideas. Citizens of Bloomington seemed to embody Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s belief that "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter," because silence did not seem to be an option.

We were so moved that each of us committed our talents and skills to boards, committees and commissions working to make Bloomington's "Safe and Civil City" tagline a reality. As you peruse the pages of this book, you too will see the ways in which many Bloomington residents have decided to express their beliefs in the mission of a particular organization and the value of volunteerism.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday was the impetus for these activities because of Dr. King's belief that personal greatness has a direct correlation to one's commitment to service – service to the community, the country, and the world. Dr. King sought to forge the common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together as equals to address important community issues. Service, he realized, was the great equalizer. As he once said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

We commemorate Dr. King's inspiring words, because his voice and his vision filled a great void in our nation, and answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles. Yet, Dr. King knew that it wasn't enough just to talk the talk; he knew that he (and we) had to walk the walk, for his words to be credible.

Today our nation is faced with challenges seldom seen before. Daily talk and images of war, weapons of mass destruction and biological attacks leave many of us wondering what we can do to help, to make a difference. "A Day On! Not A Day Off" not only celebrates the legacy of Dr. King but also gives each and every one of us a day and a way to contribute to the betterment of this space we occupy called Bloomington. Each time volunteers read to a child, paint a room at a recreation center, plant flowers for senior citizens or serve a meal at a local community kitchen, they are contributing to making life better for neighbors. It is only when we stop doing and fall silent that we cease to make a difference. As Dr. King so eloquently said, "We are prone to judge success by the index of our salaries or the size of our automobile rather than by the quality of our service and relationship to mankind."

When you come to the end of this publication we hope that you have gained a greater knowledge about the service opportunities available to you and your family, neighbors and friends. We hope that you will be moved to share in Dr. King's vision of a society motivated by love and be one who volunteers to make a difference, not just in January, but throughout the year.

As Dr. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

## *A Message From John Fernandez*

*Mayor, City of Bloomington, Indiana*

The City of Bloomington has long recognized the importance of celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Following Dr. King's death, the Rev. Ernest D. Butler and innumerable church and community volunteers organized celebrations for many years. When the City established the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission in 1993, it formalized and made public our community's recognition of Dr. King's birthday and legacy and our commitment to the promotion of the acceptance of diversity in Bloomington.

We can all thank the Reverend Ernest D. Butler and the Reverend Michael Anderson for helping us achieve these goals. Both lived their lives fully conscious of Dr. King's legacy. Both strove constantly to promote the acceptance of diversity. And both gave their all in service to others. Rev. Butler and Rev. Anderson were honored in January, 2003 by being named recipients of the Commission's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award. For these and many other reasons, including the love we still have for them, this book is dedicated to the memory of Rev. Butler and Rev. Anderson.

This book reveals the character of Bloomington. As I complete my eighth year as Mayor, I offer my gratitude and the gratitude of our fellow citizens for the work of our volunteers, for the members of our commissions, for our city staff members in the Community and Family Resources Department and all city departments, and for the countless other public and private efforts that exemplify the ideals which motivated Dr. King, and for which he died.

May this book inspire you to "do ye likewise" and serve others.



## *Dedication*

*This book is dedicated to the memory of  
Reverend Ernest D. Butler  
and Reverend Michael A. Anderson, Sr.*

Reverend Dr. Ernest D. Butler (1913-2003) was one of Bloomington's most respected and distinguished citizens. Reverend Butler was a founding member of the City of Bloomington's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission and the Bloomington Housing Authority. At the time of his death, "Rev" as he was lovingly called, was Pastor Emeritus of Second Baptist Church, Bloomington, Indiana, after serving as the church's senior pastor for over 43 years. Mayor John Fernandez designated Rev. Butler Lifetime King Commissioner Emeritus and honored him with a proclamation on October 11, 1999, the anniversary of his birth. Reverend Butler was known as a tireless worker on behalf of the disadvantaged and disenfranchised and was quick to share his wisdom, knowledge and experiences with those he encountered.



Reverend Michael A. Anderson, Sr. (1950-2003) began his work on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission in 1998, and served as Chair of the Commission from March of 1999 until his resignation in 2002 due to ill health. Reverend Anderson's passionate commitment to social justice issues was expressed through his ministry and his extensive community involvement. In addition to his work with the Martin Luther King Holiday Commissions in Bloomington and Jeffersonville, Indiana, Reverend Anderson served on the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, the Safe and Civil City Advisory Board, and Black Methodists for Church Renewal. At the time of his death Reverend Anderson was the Superintendent for the Bloomington District of the United Methodist Church.

## ***Members of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission:***

**Beverly Calender-Anderson, Chair**

**Rabbi Mira Wasserman, Vice Chair**

**Carlo Amani**

**Wendy Bernstein**

**Gloria Gibson**

**Nicole Griffin**

**Elizabeth Mitchell**

**Robert Motley**

**Craig Brenner, Liaison, City of Bloomington**  
Community and Family Resources Department

**Lee Bowlen, City of Bloomington**  
Community and Family Resources Department

## ***Excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s “The Drum Major Instinct”***

***A Sermon Delivered February 4, 1968,  
Ebenezer Baptist Church***

If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, I don't want a long funeral. And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy, tell them not to talk too long. Every now and then I wonder what I want them to say. Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize, that isn't important. Tell them not to mention that I have three or four hundred other awards, that's not important. Tell him not to mention where I went to school.

I'd like somebody to mention that day, that Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day, that Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to love somebody. I want you to say that day, that I tried to be right on the war question. I want you to be able to say that day, that I did try to feed the hungry. And I want you to be able to say that day, that I did try, in my life, to clothe those who were naked. I want you to say, on that day, that I did try, in my life, to visit those who were in prison. I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity.



## ***2003 “A Day On! Not A Day Off”***

### ***Service Projects***

***The following organizations created volunteer service projects for “A Day On! Not A Day Off.”***

Arlington Heights Elementary School  
Bahá'ís of Bloomington  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Bloomington Area Arts Council  
Bloomington Developmental Learning Center  
Bloomington High School North Character Education Class  
Bloomington Playwrights Project  
Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington  
Community Kitchen of Monroe County  
Congregation Beth Shalom  
Girls Scouts of Tulip Trace Council  
Harmony School  
Hoosier Hills Food Bank  
Indiana Health Students Association  
Ivy Tech Student Government Association  
Leadership Bloomington Monroe County  
Alumni Association

Mapleton Memorial First Baptist Church Ministries  
McDoel Gardens Neighborhood Association  
Middle Way House  
Middle Way Transitional Housing, The Rise!  
Monroe County Historical Society Museum  
Monroe County Humane Association  
Monroe County Public Library Children's Department  
Monroe County United Ministries  
My Sister's Closet of Monroe County  
Opportunity House  
Options for Better Living  
Planned Parenthood of Greater Indiana, Inc.  
Rogers Elementary Creek/Love Multiage Classroom  
Second Baptist Church  
Shalom Community Center  
Shelter, Inc.  
Stone Belt Center  
Templeton Elementary  
English As a New Language Program  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
Youth in Action, Youth Network of Monroe County

Bloomington Transit offered free rides for volunteers going to and from their projects on the King holiday.



*Volunteers working on a Habitat for Humanity house-building project.*



## ***Reflections on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day***

***“A Day On! Not a Day Off 2003”***

***Speech by D. A. Stone,***

***Indiana University Student Activities Office***

It's the start of a new year for us all — full of change, promise and resolutions: a new chapter in an old familiar book. At Indiana University, winter break lulled us into renewal and now the new semester starts us off with hope. There are new classes, new schedules, new professors, new daily routines. For some there are new friends to make and for others there are even new places to live. Nothing that was routine last semester is in place for this semester.

The life of a college student is all about change, growth and hard work. Those of us lucky enough to work

beside them embrace their spirit and potential. We relish this educational reciprocity and try hard to capture but one ounce of their energy and passion for learning. But, the education students experienced today volunteering was not

***Today provided  
student volunteers  
in the Education of  
Humanity, 101.***

in the classroom, it was nowhere to be found in a textbook and didn't come alive in a lecture. It certainly did not have a syllabus. Today provided student volunteers in the Education of Humanity, 101.

Are we prepared to teach this class?

*A Day On! Not a Day Off* is a simple template assuring that we have "class attendance" for at least one day.

The curriculum is within us all and lasts a lifetime.

It is a new year and we are all back in school.

There are lessons that we have just not gotten A's in yet for we still have inequality, poverty, hunger, violence, racism, oppression... war. When we work together we learn from each other. We see each other's strengths, value our differences, use our talents and accomplish our goals. But it can't be for just one day, for it takes time to really build an education and create change. It is truly difficult to continue what has been started today, to have students really understand agency need and agencies to really understand and appreciate students. It demands respect, understanding and continued effort.

Let's step into the classroom together this year. Let's make a new year's resolution that not only takes time to honor a great teacher, but also promises to embrace change and social action. It took courage for these hundreds of student volunteers to step outside of their world. How often do the rest of us take this one leap of faith? I want to thank them for all they teach us.

Thank you to the City of Bloomington for their continued coordination of agency service projects and to the agencies for dedicating themselves every day, all year long.

May we stand here next year celebrating a year of change, opening a new book with a new chapter, based on all the books that have come before it.

## *What I Saw*

*Speech by Bet Savich, Director,  
Bloomington Volunteer Network*

I went around town and visited eight of the more than 45 community service projects, and want to share a bit about what I saw and heard.

At the Hoosier Hills Food Bank, about 90 volunteers helped prepare for a food drive, organized routes to pick up donations, and sorted donated food. The usual number of volunteers is 15.

At Middle Way House, 40 people participated. Some helped paint the kitchen and others participated in training on domestic violence.

My Sister's Closet was swarming with volunteers who helped sort and label clothes for women.

At the Monroe County Public Library, as of 4:15 p.m. there had been 75 volunteers, and the event was scheduled to last until 6 p.m., with four AmeriCorps volunteers and others.

At Opportunity House, I asked an 81-year-old woman who has been volunteering there for the past 32 years why she does it. As you may know, all funds raised by the Opportunity House thrift store go to the Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) day care program. "It's wonderful for the school," she said. "And, it makes me get up in the morning!" Another

volunteer who came for the first time on the King holiday said as she was leaving “I have to quit volunteering now, I have to shop here,” and then proceeded to spend \$14 of her own money, which will go straight to the day care program at MCUM.

I then went to MCUM and talked with a few people who were painting there. When I asked one parent why he was volunteering, he said, “I like how my kids are treated here. It’s a good quality organization. I knew they needed help, so I helped out.”

The Dream Chain is made by children of all ages at the



*“My Sister’s Closet was swarming with volunteers who helped sort and label clothes for women.”*

public library, and I took a look at it and read some of these statements: “What are the dreams of this community? Are the ones written by the kids really that different from the ones written by adults?” “I dream for health care and food for all.”

“Cookies for everybody.”

“I have a dream that my children will be able to play with kids from all backgrounds, and not be judged by where they come from.”

“I want to share ice cream with everyone.”

“I dream that everyone has a chance for education.”

“I want to be a basketball player.”

“I dream that crime, war, and hatred will be eliminated.”

“My dream is that my family is healthy and full of love.”

In the United States, about half of the population between the ages of 13 and 85 volunteer on the average of 3 to 5 hours a week. Think of that! That is a lot of people. People are helping people, and they’re working for the common good. They are taking responsibility for the problems in their communities, and taking pride in their communities’ assets. We have a saying here, “If you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem.” Now that’s a good attitude to have!

There is a quote from Walt Whitman: “The pleasures of heaven are with me, and the pains of hell are with me. The first I graft and increase upon myself. The latter I translate into a new tongue.”

I want to encourage everyone to continue to turn negatives into positives. Build the community. Volunteer your time!



## ***Beth Shalom and the Unitarian Universalist Church Come Together on MLK Day***

***by Rabbi Mira Wasserman, Member,  
City of Bloomington Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Birthday Celebration Commission***

This year, we wanted to take seriously Martin Luther King, Jr.'s wisdom that everyone can be great, because everyone can serve. We searched for a volunteer project which would truly be of help, and which could involve even the youngest volunteers.

The Shalom Community Center provided us with the idea we were looking for—snack packs for young visitors to this daytime resource center for individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty. The snack packs would be small packages of food both healthy and fun, especially made for kids. Volunteers purchased the treats to be packed, with money that was donated especially for the project. We got enough for 150 snack packs. On Martin Luther King Day, almost 200 people of all ages from both Beth Shalom and the Unitarian Universalist Church crowded into the Beth Shalom

sanctuary, and began the morning with songs and words in memory of Dr. King, and in celebration of his teachings of justice for all people.

Then we crowded into the social hall to start packing the snacks.

It was an energetic group, and far more people than we organizers had expected. Most adults hung back to let the younger people do the work getting the packs ready, and with so many volunteers, the work was quickly done.

The youngest kids made pictures to enclose with the snacks. Some worked at a feverish pitch, scribbling a few lines on a page and moving onto the next one. Others worked more carefully, deliberately filling their pages with colors.

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everyone can serve.***

At the end of the morning, we realized we didn't have nearly enough cartons to hold all the snack packs, but volunteers came forward to help bring the snack packs to the Shalom Center.

The busy, joyful, and crowded two hours we spent together left us dreaming up new projects for next year. With so many enthusiastic volunteers to draw upon, we are looking forward to making an even bigger impact.



If you want to be important – wonderful.  
 If you want to be recognized – wonderful.  
 If you want to be great – wonderful.  
 But recognize that he who is  
 greatest among you shall be your servant.  
 That's your new definition of greatness.  
 And this morning, the thing that I like about it...  
 by giving that definition of greatness it means  
 that everybody can be great,  
 because everyone can serve.  
 You don't have to have a college degree to serve.  
 You don't have to make your  
 subject and your verb agree to serve.  
 You don't have to know about  
 Plato and Aristotle to serve.  
 You don't have to know  
 Einstein's theory of relativity to serve.  
 You don't have to know the  
 second theory of thermodynamics in physics to  
 serve.  
 You only need a heart full of grace.  
 A soul generated by love.  
 And you can be that servant.

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
*Sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church, February 4, 1968*

## *Paula's Hope*

*as She Cleans Graffiti and Leaves Anything  
 That Could Be Art...*

Giving a part of yourself  
 Knowing it's all for a Day On! Not a Day Off

Asking for just one more color roller  
 Speeding it up...  
 Graffiti will soon disappear

This is not the first time  
 I have given my time...

I am just one of many who help on this day...

Hoping others are giving and will give...  
 Not only today.

—by Paula Reidhaar,  
*Youth In Action student member who has done graffiti clean-up  
 in honor of "A Day On! Not A Day Off" for the past four years*

## Our “Diversity Tables”

by First and Second Grade students in the Creek/Love class, Rogers Elementary School

The following selections were written by first and second grade students in the Creek/Love Multi-Age Classroom at Rogers Elementary School. For their MLK Day project, students refurbished and decoupaged diversity-related pictures on used furniture, which was donated to local non-profit social service agencies. They also selected children’s books to donate to these facilities.

*“Our table shows six people and they are different colors. It shows that people can be different colors and that is how life is. It’s sort of like Martin Luther King because he helped people of different colors and he tried to stop people who thought everyone should be the same color.” – Eva*

*“Our table shows diversity because the people in it look different and they feel different and they have different clothes. It also shows diversity because there are lots of different flowers and the flowers are big and small.” – Olivia P.*

*“Eva did the flowers and I did one of them. Me and Olivia worked on most of the people. The people are from different countries. Two of the people are Chinese. The other people are from India, South America, North America and Scotland.” – Olivia H.*

*“We chose a topic we liked – sea creatures. We started by thinking out what we wanted on our table. Then we drew them and cut them out. It shows diversity because there are different types of sharks talking and in a way they are the same and in a way they are different.” – Evan*



## Contributing to My Community

by *Hannah Dumes, 2003 Graduate,  
Bloomington High School North*

When I was in fifth grade I volunteered at the Hoosier Hills Food Bank to fulfill some community service requirements for a class I was taking. I went with a friend and wore my favorite green shirt. My job was to carry boxes from one end of the room to the other and to label them with blue permanent marker. The hours went quickly because

*These volunteering experiences have been incredibly rewarding and incredibly fun at the same time and have, without a doubt, shaped the person that I am.*

I happened to like markers and labeling things. The people working there were much older than I and also, I thought, much cooler. They seemed so happy to be there and they made work fun. I began to feel guilty by the end of the night realizing that I was doing this because

I had to and they were doing this because they wanted to.

After my four hours were up, I went home, ate dinner, and decided I would contribute to my community in the best way I knew how—through art. Art has always been the best way I communicate, contribute, understand and engage. So

I made ceramic bowls for the Soup Bowl benefit two years in a row, donated photographs to be auctioned off to raise money for the John Waldron Arts Center's dark room, donated art pieces to Amethyst House, a substance abuse center, two years in a row to help them raise money, donated a painting to the Oncology Ward at the Bloomington Hospital, and volunteered at the Mather's Museum for a summer. These volunteering experiences have been incredibly rewarding and incredibly fun at the same time and have, without a doubt, shaped the person that I am.



*A food drive on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.*

## ***Volunteering Weekly at the Food Bank***

***Elizabeth Robins, Student,  
Jackson Creek Middle School***

While working at the Food Pantry, I have gotten to know personally many of the regular customers and they are very nice people who deserve our respect even if they are experiencing hard times financially. I have also noticed that

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ally many of the regular  
customers and they are  
very nice people...***

people who shop at the Food Pantry are very respectful of the food they receive, meaning that they do not waste any of the food they get. They are grateful for and appreciative of the donations. Furthermore,

many of the shoppers will put their small change into the donation box to show their appreciation and to help others. Since working at the Food Pantry, I have become very aware of how wasteful our society is. I see people wasting food at school, at camp, and even at home, and I think of how that food could have benefited people in need. I continually encourage my friends and family to be more responsible with their food.

## ***Our Mural Project***

***by Vanessa Fenker, Kindergarten Teacher, Bloomington  
Developmental Learning Center***

Bloomington Developmental Learning Center (BDLC) sponsored a mural project on the King holiday. Because of this project the children had the opportunity to learn about, discuss, and practice important concepts such as peace, love, freedom, equality, and dreams. We referred back to the ideas and dreams of Martin Luther King, Jr. while discussing several other topics throughout the school year. The actual painting of the mural allowed the children to work together as a group with a common goal in sight. The children were also able to be creative and express their thoughts through painting.

The core ideas and values that Martin Luther King, Jr. believed in were discussed throughout our child care center. I believe that everyone—children, staff, and BDLC parents—benefited from hearing about his life and relating certain concepts to their own lives. These are values and ideas that we should practice and remember all throughout the year no matter how old we are. Everyone who passes through the center court common area at BDLC is able to enjoy the beautiful hand-painted mural and remember Martin Luther King Jr.'s powerful words and beliefs.

Approximately 50 BDLC students worked on painting the mural and participated in discussions. BDLC staff read Martin Luther King, Jr. stories to the children, helped to lead discussions about his values and dreams, and helped the children design their paintings.

**Man is man because he is free to operate within the framework of his destiny. He is free to deliberate, to make decisions, and to choose between alternatives. He is distinguished from animals by his freedom to do evil or to do good and to walk the high road of beauty or tread the low road of ugly degeneracy.**

—*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., The Measure of A Man, 1959.*



*Volunteers at  
My Sister's Closet*





## *Service Is What Life Is All*

### *About*

*by Emily Neffelt, Student, Edgewood High School  
Excerpts from Her Presidential Freedom  
Scholarship Essay*

As an active citizen of the community, I help at the Hoosier Hills Food Bank and Community Kitchen, volunteer at WonderLab, ring the Salvation Army bell during Christmas time, support Backstreet Missions, and work with my church youth group on other activities to help the community locally, nationally, and internationally. I stay involved in these groups because I enjoy sharing my gifts and talents with those who need a helping hand. Furthermore, I know there are a lot of things left undone within the community, people suffer every day, and I just want to try and make a difference.

The quote of Marian Wright Edelman, “Service is what life is all about,” really hits home for me. I find comfort and joy through simple tasks that others might find insignificant. For instance, some of the simple tasks including sending get-well cards, sharing a special storybook with elementary students, spending time at the nursing home, shoveling snow

off someone’s driveway/sidewalk, and smiling at a stranger. The simple tasks continually bring me pleasure through enjoying someone else’s company. In parallel, I find peace in accomplishing what one says “can’t be done.” The very second someone says a task cannot be accomplished, I just want to prove them wrong. I find joy, peace, and comfort in trying to do my part and make a difference within the community.

Similarly, the community benefits from my acts, in addition to my personal peace. When I help pack food at the Hoosier Hills Food Bank, which in turn gets distributed to the public, the food allows a family to have a fighting chance for survival and makes a difference in their lives and others. I also enjoy WonderLab. The children exploring science makes the experience worthwhile, and it encourages me to pursue a medical career.

***I find joy, peace, and comfort in trying to do my part and make a difference within the community.***

Each action I or anyone else takes affects the relationships or at least the environment in either a positive or negative way. Therefore, I am personally committed to contributing and improving the town, city, state, nation, and world I live in each day. For I know that ACTIONS speak louder than words!



## ***“A Day On! Not a Day Off” at The Rise!***

***by Katie Kenyon, Community Service Coordinator,  
The Rise! Middle Way House, Inc.***

The Rise! is a program of Middle Way House, serving formerly battered and homeless women and their children with affordable, safe and supportive housing and resources. Middle Way House and the Rise! have participated in “A Day On! Not a Day Off” for several years running. Every year, we complete valuable projects with the volunteer hands that come to us and the grant money that is given to us. We also are given the opportunity to talk about our program with new people. From this year’s group of painting volunteers, three young women have gone through the Middle Way House eight-hour domestic violence training, and are now weekly volunteers in our program. A woman who volunteered at our emergency shelter for eight years before entering nursing school saw our project description and made good of her “Day On” by spending it with us once again. We are honored as always to participate in this great Bloomington tradition.

Many of the ugly pages of American history  
have been obscured and forgotten....  
America owes a debt of justice  
which it has only begun to pay.  
If it loses the will to finish  
or slackens in its determination,  
history will recall its crimes  
and the country that would be great will lack  
the most indispensable element of greatness  
—justice.

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
**Where Do We Go from Here:  
Chaos or Community?**  
1967.

## *Translating Books for School Children*

*by Amie Easton, English as a New Language Program,  
Templeton Elementary School*

The English as a New Language Program at Templeton Elementary School received a grant from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, to help translate children's books into languages spoken by the children in our school. Ten volunteers from Indiana University came to spend time at Templeton on Martin Luther King Day, and several others who were unable to attend volunteered to translate books and send them via e-mail.

Two students came from the Jewish Studies Student Organization, and they were able to finish two books for us. Seven students came from the La Casa Latino Student Organization, and they were able to translate and type 12

***When the students are  
able to read these  
books, they feel as  
though they have been  
made especially for  
them.***

books in the afternoon. Another student helped with copying and editing and making and serving lunch.

Many of the students who came expressed a desire to be involved in future projects with our school. The books for translation were provided by funds from the I-Read Grant and Templeton provided the computers and space for our project. Many teacher and assistant hours have gone into the project since Martin Luther King Day, including editing, formatting, printing, and inserting the translations into the books.

When the students are able to read these books, they feel as though they have been made especially for them, and it makes them feel cared about by our school and community. A label in the books recognizes the volunteers who gave of their time so selflessly. We hope this project will help plant a seed of service in the hearts of our students that will come to fruition in the form of other service projects.

I'd like to express my appreciation to the city for providing this opportunity for our school. I have made many contacts that I believe will be assets to my students and our community. Others who volunteered their time mentioned that they were happy to be helping out in the community. Several students mentioned that it gave them a rare chance to be off-campus and feel more like citizens of Bloomington. Thanks again for this opportunity to help make this a better school and a better community!

## “A Day On! Not A Day Off”

### Reflection Summary

by Katie Huckaby, Program Director,  
Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington

On Monday, January 20, 2003, the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington hosted a special event to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boys & Girls Club members, their families, members of the community, and volunteers were invited to participate in various activities at our main club. Our programs and activities exposed our members to concepts of Dr. King by focusing on the national Boys and Girls Club's five core areas: character and leadership development, health and life skills, the arts, fitness and recreation, and education and career development. Over 50 members attended our event along with dozens of parents and family members.

***Our members  
represent virtually every  
ethnicity throughout  
the Bloomington  
community.***

We opened the day with a morning meeting to discuss the day's activities and the importance of Dr. King and his dream for our nation. Members discussed his “I Have a Dream” speech and shared ideas on why his message was so important. Then, our members participated in a group physical game in the gym. They played a civil rights game that incorporated significant names and events of freedom fighters from history. They also played a game that stressed importance of each member's different physical



***“Members made diversity quilts  
representing our diverse population  
in our community and in our Club.”***

characteristics.

After the activities in the gym, over a dozen members of a volunteer group ran an activity with our members that challenged them to use cooperation and teamwork to think about the importance of setting goals and accepting each other. Throughout the rest of the activities over 40 volunteers and staff members participated in leading activities. Members made diversity quilts representing the diverse population in our community and in our Club, wrote stories and made books that told about their personal heroes, both important famous figures and people in their daily lives, wrote about important ideas, hopes and problems in our society, researched Dr. King in our computer lab and made posters to prepare for our Martin Luther King, Jr. freedom march.

Our activities continued throughout the rest of the week during our after school program. Extending these plans significantly increased the number of children that we reached. Our members represent virtually every ethnicity throughout the Bloomington community. Our members make up an extremely diverse group of people with extensive differences in racial, educational, financial, and social backgrounds. We feel it is most important to remember the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and continue to stress them on a daily basis throughout the rest of the year.

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness;  
only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate;  
only love can do that.  
Hate multiplies hate,  
violence multiplies violence,  
and toughness multiplies toughness  
in a descending spiral of destruction....*

*The chain reaction of evil  
—hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars—  
must be broken,  
or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss  
of annihilation.*

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Strength To Love*, 1963.

## ***Community Kitchen of Monroe County, Inc.***

***Julio Alonso, Executive Director***

Sixty volunteers during the week of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday helped our staff prepare 2,400 meals for the hungry that were distributed through our various programs. Volunteers made "Feed Our Future" program lunches for children at the Boys & Girls Club, Banneker Center, The Rise! Middle Way House, Inc., and the Monroe County Community Corrections JAMS program. In addition, meals were prepared for volunteers from the Indiana University School of Education who accompanied 40 children from Girls, Inc. on a field trip to the Indianapolis Children's Museum on King Day.

Meals were also prepared and served through the Community Kitchen's ongoing evening meal programs at 917 South Rogers Street and 1100 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Volunteers who assisted during the week of Dr. King's birthday represented the WAVE and Helping Hand student groups from Indiana University, the Church of Latter Day Saints, as well as numerous individuals.

The City of Bloomington's commitment to "A Day On! Not A Day Off" is of tremendous benefit to our community. In addition to the many people served through our programs, I know that many other agencies participated as well.

## ***Community Service Is Its Own Reward***

***by Joseph Aubin, Student,  
Bloomington High School South,  
Excerpts from His Presidential  
Freedom Scholarship Essay***

I am involved in many activities at school as well as in the community. I have helped coach a local elementary Science Olympiad team. I serve as an usher at my church once a month and assist with a contemporary worship service. I help train teachers with technology at a local elementary school. This involves tutoring teachers on using various software packages. I volunteer for the Bloomington High School South Band Boosters. I have traveled with the marching band, helping with equipment and serving on the pit crew. I volunteer in the concession stand to support fundraising efforts.

Community service has allowed me to grow as a person and a leader. Being a role model for young students while helping prepare them for Science Olympiad competition has been very important in my life. It has been rewarding to see the students I have coached achieve levels above older and more experienced competitors at regional and state levels.

Coaching has allowed me to give back to the community by helping students gain recognition for their academic excellence, as few elementary schools compete against middle school teams. Our team has achieved a great deal over the last few years, placing among the top five overall in the state competition.

Through service as an usher at my church I have been able to work with diverse adults, many of them important individuals. These relationships have allowed me to learn more about my community and worldwide events. Doing various jobs within the worship community has provided me the chance to use my leadership skills while sharing my faith. I have helped build houses through the church sponsored Habitat for Humanity projects. It has been very fulfilling to help those in need. I have enjoyed this experience and look forward to being able to continue serving my community through involvement in the church.

I have often volunteered my time to share technology skills and instruction at a local elementary school. I have taught large and small groups of teachers the use of computers and software. By teaching others I have improved my technical skills. I am proud to see the results of this help when teachers are able to pass this knowledge on to their students. It has meant much to me to share this knowledge with the educational community that has given me tremendous opportunities.

Community service has benefited me by allowing me to give of my personal gifts to help others. I am able to use my leadership and academic skills to bring recognition to the school system and community. The recognition of strong students benefits the community. Winning many new friends has been a tremendous fringe benefit of working with diverse groups of adults. Being involved in community service has been quite rewarding, inspiring me to continue to be involved in the community where I res

## ***Making Cinnamon Rolls***

*by Matthew Henderson, Second Grade Student,  
Clear Creek Elementary School*

In honor of Martin Luther King day, we made cinnamon rolls. I think it's important to do things on Martin Luther King day because he was a good man. He put the whites and the blacks together. He made the blacks and the whites fair.

We made cinnamon rolls at our church, and then we sold them. First, we rolled the dough and then we put butter on it. Then we put cinnamon on it. After that we rolled it up into a log shape. We cut it in half, and then cut each half into four pieces. Then we put the eight pieces into a pan. Then we cooked them. Then they let us taste one. It tasted like cinnamon bread with icing.

The next Sunday we sold the cinnamon rolls to people at the church. With the money some kids went to stores to buy stuff for people that were poor. They are people who go to the Shalom Center. I felt good because I was helping the community.





## *A Day On! Not a Day Off*

*by Robert Henderson, Fourth Grade Student,  
Clear Creek Elementary School*

On Martin Luther King Day, I helped our community by making cinnamon rolls. They were easy to make. It made me feel happy because I helped homeless and poor people. I helped the homeless people by making cinnamon rolls to sell, and then the money we made was used to buy stuff for homeless people.

It's important to help homeless people because they need it or they might die. It would be scary to be homeless. It would be scary because you might not get enough food, or you might not get shelter. It would be hardest in the winter because if they don't find shelter they'll get really cold and frost-bite.

Martin Luther King would be very happy to know that people are donating their time to help the homeless because he helped people. He helped them by trying to stop the war between whites and blacks. He tried to stop pollution and he was shot.

I'm glad I was part of "a day on, not a day off," because I helped people in need. Next year I hope I can do it again.

## ***Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday - Social Action Day at Harmony School, 2003***

***by Barbara Backler, Curriculum Coordinator,  
Harmony School***

Every year Harmony School students go to school on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, because we think that knowing Dr. King and the things that he stood for are a very important part of our curriculum. Each year we have a Social Action Day in which we honor Martin Luther King, Jr. and try to understand non-violent ways of making a difference in the world. This year, since we had just been designated as a First Amendment School we featured the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment and tried to understand the responsibilities that go along with those rights.

We started the day with a guest speaker, Jason Crowe, a young student activist who uses his voice and his writings to speak out against injustice and to celebrate people who have inspired him by their acts of kindness and love.

We encouraged our students to do the same. We launched our Habitat for Humanity project in which we have joined with Bloomingfoods and the Center for Sustainable

Living to build a straw bale house for a local family. This was the beginning of several fundraisers that continue throughout the spring - selling pizza at lunchtime, finding sponsors for a bike ride, doing a read-athon, helping with a dessert, and soliciting on campus. We showed the AIDS video that students had committed to creating at last year's social action day. The students had been inspired by the Indiana University Outreach Kenya project. The University students came and told about their experiences spreading information about AIDS in Kenya, and our students wanted to create a video for children in Kenya that would help educate them. Finally, several middle school students told about the community service projects that they do every Wednesday morning and how the funds from the MLK grant would enhance the work they do.

Each year our Social Action Day projects are enhanced by grants from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission. Over the years we have purchased books about racism and famous Black Americans, materials for a large billboard about making a difference in the world, supplies for creating our own peace sculptures and materials for enriching our community service projects.

***If a man hasn't discovered  
something that he will die for,  
he isn't fit to live.***

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
*Speech, Detroit, Michigan, June 23, 1963.*

## ***Social Action Day at Harmony School***

*by Sierra Launer, Student, Harmony School*

Social action day was so much fun this year. Why? Because we had this young man come in and his name is Jason Crowe. He talked to us about how he got inspired to do a wonderful thing and that is making the world a better place to live. What got him inspired to do a wonderful thing was when he either got frustrated or upset. Then he would always do something like making a difference in the world. This time Jason Crowe is making a statue. What got him inspired was his grandmother died of cancer. And before she died of cancer she asked Jason that if he had the opportunity to change anything in the world what would he do. And he said that if he had the opportunity to do anything or change anything he would make a difference. Because of war I want to build a statue. Then we asked what could we do to help and he said right now you could just try to earn money for the statue equipment. Then we asked how would we earn the money and he said do bake sales, car washes and different kinds of fundraisers.

## ***Jason Crowe's Story on Social Action Day***

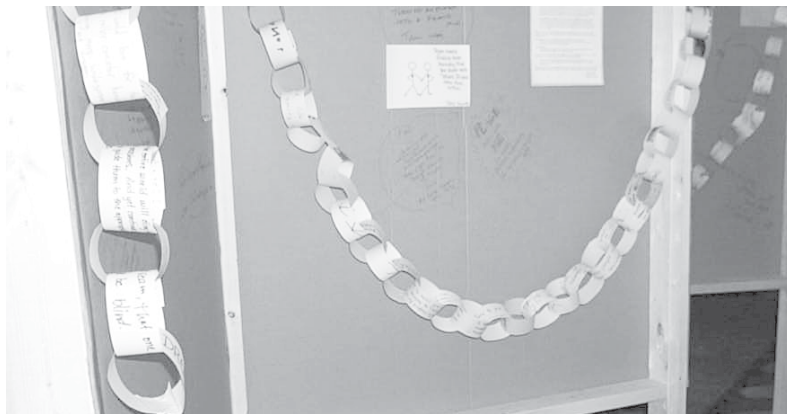
*by Talia Shifron, Student, Harmony School*

On social action day Jason Crowe came to Harmony School. He told us about how 22 innocent people got killed while waiting in a line for bread. Then Vedran Smailovic saw this from outside his window and knew that he had to do something so he played cello for 22 days in honor of each person who got killed. This all happened in Sarajevo.

Jason Crowe told us how this really inspired him and that he had to do something. It also really inspired me that he did this all on his own with no one telling him or no one saying you should do this. So he wanted to make a difference in the world and he is only 15, and I think it is so cool that even kids can make such a big difference in the world. So Jason Crowe wanted to send a statue to Bosnia in honor of the people who died and the cellist. He also wanted to show that children can make a difference in the world and the children don't want war any more than adults do. Then he came to Harmony School and told the kids here about it.

Later one of our Harmony parents who had been at Jason's presentation came to school and sold paper chains, and

everybody put their names on the chains and there were 83 links, so we sent \$83 to Jason to help build the statue. The kids stood in line waving their dollars. Every time a link was added to the chain they rang a bell. Kids wrote things on their links like, “Every kid deserves a safe place to play.” I think that it was very cool that Harmony School could help out and make a difference.



*A Dream Chain*

## *Social Action Day*

*by Savanna Michel, Student,  
Harmony School*

Social Action Day was great. It let me feel good inside because the whole school was together and I learned a lot. I learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and about AIDS. The presentation on AIDS inspired me, so now I'm reading a book called Ryan White and he had AIDS also. I also loved my workshop. It was called “Responsibility of Moving Together.” We talked about what was going on in the world that we didn't like, like war and cutting down trees and much, much more. And then we would do movements to the problem. A man named Bill Breeden came and talked about his experiences of hope in the world. Social Action Day was great. I can look forward to every Social Action Day throughout my years at Harmony.



## *The Rise*

*by Nikkia Lewis, Middle School Student,  
Harmony School*

My name is Nikkia Lewis and I volunteer at the Rise every Wednesday. I have to be there from 9-11 and I work with all the little kids. I really like working with the infants. The employees there are really nice and they have me do projects and crafts with the little kids like on holidays or in the spring and summer.

And sometimes we go on walks if we have enough people and strollers. When I get there in the morning all of the parents are dropping off their kids, so it is really hectic. Everyone in the middle school has a community service job and mine happens to be at the Rise. And I hope I can get the same job next year.

It was a few weeks before Martin Luther King Day and the staff at school announced that they would give a grant to someone, and I suggested that they give it to me and I could get stuff for the Rise. And so I was one of the winners and they gave me a \$50 grant. So the next Wednesday I went I told the workers and I asked one of them to sit down and start to make a list of things they could use, and she started writing down everything that they wanted and I picked out stuff that I knew they needed and some things that it would

be nice to have. So I went out with Barb Backler and we went around the different stores and got them all kinds of stuff they asked for like sippy cups, bottles, toys, and snacks, juice, paper, scissors and glue.

They were so happy that I got this for them they couldn't believe it. The kids were really happy too. They sat down right away and started using the supplies. I was so thrilled that I was able to do this for them, because they would do anything for me. They are so nice about everything.



## What are the First Things That Come to Mind

**When You Hear Martin Luther King, Jr.?**

*The following are contributed by staff at the Youth Services  
Bureau of Monroe County.*

**I think of MLK and Jackie Robinson.  
Robinson breaking into baseball...how the two met.  
They exposed themselves to so much hate.  
J Edgar Hoover, FBI, and others after MLK.  
People threw things at Robinson.  
It must have been incredibly hard.**

**They were trail blazers.  
They had no idea how the whole culture would respond to  
them. They did it anyway...  
incredible.**

*—Dave Torneo, Counselor, Youth Services Bureau*

**I Think of  
Freedom, Equal Rights, Leadership...**

**He was an advocate...**

**A role model for how to correctly advocate  
in non-violent ways.**

*—Robin Donaldson, Assistant Director, Youth Services  
Bureau*

## “Yes”

*The Many Faces we wear  
Man,  
Woman,  
Child*

*Friend,  
Keeper of Flags and Secrets  
Fragile...*

*Warriors who whisper...  
“yes” and “no” in the Holes of our Lives  
Keeping our Eyes on our Bags while our Children play...*

*Have we Said “yes” Today?*

*The Diversions, The New Shoes to be Had*

*Being a Part of  
A Dream  
that Lights your Face and Hands with “yes”...*

*In the Dream...*

*Spoken on the Waves that pushed and pulled North and South...*

*We are together  
and getting our Hands dirty...*

*A Challenge, Contest,  
Labor*

*Toward a Human Consciousness...a greater Trust...No Colors,  
No Bags,*

*A Day on, on All Faces*

*Filling the Voids, the dark Holes, with a graceful Future and soft  
Hand on your Shoulder that always says “yes”*

*—Linda Haneke*





3/3/03

Dear Martin Luther King Day Commission,  
 My Name is James Mitchell and I am 10  
 Years old. I go to Journey Christian School where  
 I am in the fourth grade. On Martin Luther  
 King Day I volunteered my time playing the piano  
 for the City event at Buskirk Chumley. I considered  
 playing the piano an honor. I hope the music  
 I selected made DR. King smile from Heaven.

Sincerely,  
 James  
 Nicklos  
 Mitchell

*Excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s*  
***“I Have a Dream” Address at***  
***the March on Washington***  
*August 28, 1963, Washington, D.C.*

I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.”

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."

And if America is to be a great nation this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!

Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado!

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous peaks of California!

But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee!

Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

## ***More Information About Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.***

Dr. King is one of America's most famous and important citizens. He spoke publicly many times, wrote many articles, letters, and books. Many people and organizations have studied and written about him. As a result, there is a tremendous amount of information available for anyone who wants to learn about Dr. King.

The King Center in Atlanta, Georgia, is one such place. Established in 1968 by Dr. King's wife, Coretta Scott King, The King Center is the official, living memorial dedicated to the advancement of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., leader of America's greatest nonviolent movement for justice, equality and peace. Located in Atlanta's Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, The King Center utilizes diverse communications media, including books, audio and video cassettes, film, television, CDs and Web pages, to reach out far beyond its physical boundaries to educate people all over the world about Dr. King's life, work and his philosophy and methods of nonviolent conflict reconciliation and social change.

You can learn more about Dr. King by visiting the King Center. If you are not able to go to Atlanta, use your computer – [www.thekingcenter.com](http://www.thekingcenter.com). Or check out the library for more information.